

A SYNOPSIS OF THE RACES OF *BOMBYCILLA*
GARRULA (LINNÆUS).

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

WHEN Mr. Ridgway last treated the Bohemian Waxwing he found no subspecific differences in any part of its range.¹ A recent examination and comparison of specimens of this species from Europe, Asia, and North America, including much material additional to that examined by Mr. Ridgway shows that the North American bird is decidedly different in coloration from that of Europe. The bird from Asia, though to a certain extent intermediate, is yet racially distinguishable from those of both Europe and North America. Three subspecies are thus recognizable, as set forth below.

The generic name *Bombycilla* Vieillot,² which has currently been used for this group, has been rejected³ in favor of *Ampelis* Linnæus, on the ground that the type of *Ampelis* Linnæus is by tautonomy *Lanius garrulus* Linnæus. A recent examination of the original description of *Ampelis* Linnæus⁴ shows, however, that while the word *Ampelis* was used in the synonymy, it was not in the sense of the *Ampelis*, but merely as part of a descriptive polynomial. Thus, according to the ruling of the International Commission on Nomenclature, this can not be construed as constituting tautonomy in a pre-Linnean publication such as Linnæus' *Fauna Suecica*. Consequently the type of *Ampelis* must be subject to subsequent designation, which apparently was first made by Gray in 1840, by whom *Ampelis cotinga* Linnæus was selected.⁵ The generic name for the waxwings, therefore, must revert to *Bombycilla* Vieillot.

¹ Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, part 3, 1904, pp. 105-109.

² Ois. Amér. Sept., I, 1807 (1808), p. 88, pl. 57 (type, by monotypy, *Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot).

³ Committee Brit. Ornithologists' Union, List Brit. Birds, 1915, p. 362.

⁴ Syst. Nat., ed. 12, I, 1766, p. 297.

⁵ List Genera Birds, 1840, p. 34.

***Bombycilla garrula garrula* (Linnæus).**

[*Lanius*] *garrulus* LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 95 (Europe and North America).

Corvus lientericus TEMMINCK, Cat. Systématique Cabinet d'Ornith., 1807, p. 43 (nom. nov. pro *Ampelis garrulus* Gmelin).

Bombyciphora poliocælia MEYER, Vögel Liv.- u. Esthlands, 1815, p. 104 (nom. nov. pro *Lanius garrulus* Linnæus).

Bombycilla Bohemica LEACH, Synopt. Cat. Brit. Birds, 1817, p. 6 (nom. nov. pro *Lanius garrulus* Linnæus).

Garrulus europæus DUMONT, Dict. Sciences Nat., XXIV, 1822, pp. 184, 185 (nom. nov. pro *Ampelis garrulus* Linnæus).

Garrulus major DUMONT, Dict. Sciences Nat., XXIV, 1822, pp. 184, 185 (nom. nov. pro *Ampelis garrulus* Linnæus).

Parus Bombycilla PALLAS, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat., I, 1826, p. 548 (nom. nov. pro *Lanius garrulus* Linnæus).

Bomb[y]cilla. brachyrhynchos BREHM, Vogelfang, 1855, p. 79 (middle Europe).

Bombycilla cærulea DUBOIS, Rev. et Mag. de Zool., XII, 1860, p. 2 (lapsus calami pro *Bombycilla garrula*).

Bombycilla garrula vulgaris HARTERT, Vögel paläarkt. Fauna, I, Heft IV, March, 1907, p. 456 (A. E. Brehm MS.) (nom. nov. pro *Lanius garrulus* Linnæus) (in synonymy).

Chars. subsp.— Colors darkest and most vinaceous.

Measurements.— Male:¹ Wing, 114 mm.; tail, 62; exposed culmen, 10.5; tarsus, 20; middle toe without claw, 16.

Both sexes:² Wing, 110–120; tail, 62–70; exposed culmen, 11–12; tarsus, 20–21.5.

Type locality.— Sweden (designated by Hartert).³

Geographic distribution.— Europe: Breeds north to northern Russia and northern Norway, and south to about 65° north latitude; winters north to southern Norway; west to Ireland; and south to England, southern France, northern Italy, and Turkey.

Remarks.— This is the darkest form of the species, and in coloration is decidedly vinaceous above. So far as we are able to determine, it is confined to Europe. In the present connection specimens have been examined from Russia, Norway, Prussia, and Denmark.

¹ One male from Norway. Most of the European birds examined in the present connection are without indication of sex, and therefore have not been used in the above-given measurements.

² From Hartert.

³ Vögel paläarkt. Fauna, I, Heft IV, March, 1907, p. 456.

Bombycilla garrula centralasiæ Poljakov.

Bombycilla garrulus centralasiæ POLJAKOV, Messenger Ornith., VI, April, 1915, p. 137 (Zaissan district, southwestern slope of Altai Mountains, Turkestan, central Asia).

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Bombycilla garrula garrula*, but paler and somewhat less vinaceous (more cinnamomeus) above, particularly on back and cervix; also averaging less vinaceous below (more grayish).

Measurements.—Male:¹ Wing, 111–119 (average, 114.4) mm.; tail, 59–63 (61); exposed culmen, 10.5–11.8 (11.3); tarsus, 20–20.5 (20.1); middle toe without claw, 16–17 (16.7).

Type locality.—Zaissan district, southwestern slope of Altai Mountains, Turkestan, central Asia.

Geographic distribution.—Asia: Breeds in northern Siberia south at least to Vladivostok; winters south to Turkestan and central eastern China.

Remarks.—Birds of this species from northeastern Asia differ from *Bombycilla garrula garrula* of Europe as mentioned by Poljakov in his original description of *Bombycilla garrula centralasiæ*, and undoubtedly belong to the same form. This race, though to some extent intermediate between *Bombycilla garrula garrula* and the North American bird hereinafter separated as *Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*, is nevertheless worthy of recognition. The limits of the breeding range are at present unknown, but it is without much doubt the breeding bird of northern Siberia. We have examined a summer specimen from Vladivostok. The area of its intergradation with *Bombycilla garrula garrula* is probably somewhere in western Siberia, but this remains yet definitely to be determined. A specimen from Hsing-lung-shan, 65 miles north-east of Peking, China, taken February 12, 1915, is paler and much more grayish both above and below than other specimens of *Bombycilla garrula centralasiæ*, and may possibly be a wanderer from North America, but for the present it is referred to *Bombycilla garrula centralasiæ*. Specimens of this subspecies have been examined from also Tokio, Iwaki, and Hakodate, Japan; Shanghai and Peking, China; and Bering Island in the Commander Islands.

¹ Average of 6 specimens from Japan, Siberia, and China.

Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps Reichenow.

Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps REICHENOW, Ornith. Monatsber., XVI, No. 12, December, 1908, p. 191 (Shesly River, northern British Columbia).

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Bombycilla garrula centralasiæ*, but decidedly more grayish (less cinnamomeus) both above and below.

Measurements.—Male:¹ Wing, 111–117 (average, 114.5) mm.; tail, 63–70 (65.5); exposed culmen, 11.5–12.2 (11.9); tarsus, 20–21.5 (20.8); middle toe without claw, 16–19 (17.2).

Type locality.—Shesly River, northern British Columbia, Canada.

Geographic distribution.—Northern and central North America: Breeds north to northern Mackenzie and northern Alaska; west to western Alaska and western British Columbia; south to southern British Columbia and southern Alberta; and east to northeastern Manitoba. Winters east to Nova Scotia; and south, though irregularly, to Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, southern Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, and southern California. Casual in Arizona.

Remarks.—The North American representatives of this species constitute a well-marked and readily recognizable subspecies which differs from *Bombycilla garrula garrula* in its paler, very much more grayish (less vinaceous or cinnamomeus), coloration both above and below, and from *Bombycilla garrula centralasiæ* as above indicated. There is considerable individual variation in the color of the upper surface, and some specimens in this respect overlap the characters of *Bombycilla garrula centralasiæ*; but as a whole the large series which we have examined shows a good average difference. So far as we have been able to determine, there is no geographical variation among the birds from North America, since those from the easternmost part of the range of the species appear to be just the same as those from far western localities. This to a certain extent might be expected, since this waxwing, so far as we know, does not breed east of Hudson Bay. No comparison, however, has been made of breeding birds from southern Alberta and southern British Columbia with those from more northern localities.

¹ Average of ten specimens from Oregon, Washington, and Montana.